

25. (New) The method of any one of claims 15, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.
26. (New) The method of any one of claims 16, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.
27. (New) The method of any one of claims 17, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*--

Remarks

Claims 1 to 18 are pending. By the present amendment, claims 1 to 9 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants maintain the right to prosecute canceled claims 1 to 9 in any related application claiming the benefit of priority of the subject application. New claims 19 to 27 have been added. Accordingly, upon entry of the amendment, claims 10 to 27 are pending.

Regarding the Claim Amendments

The amendments to the claims were made to correct a typographical error or were made to address informalities in the claim language. In particular, the amendment to claim 15 to substitute "MAELGSGSELHRGGGRSRTS" for "MAELSGSGSELHRGGGRSRTS" corrects a typographical error by removing the "S" from the fifth position of the sequence. This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, Figure 2, which discloses "MAELGSGSELHRGGGRSRTS" as the first 20 amino acids of the sequence. The remaining amendments to claims 10 to 12 and 16 to 18, were made to conform them with U.S. patent practice. Thus, the amendments do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Regarding the New Claims

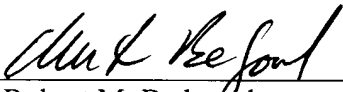
New claims 19 to 27 are supported by the specification. For example, new claims 19 to 22 and 23 to 27 are supported by claims 17 and 18, respectively, as originally filed. Thus, claims 19 to 27 do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for examination which action is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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10. A method for producing plants or parts thereof having an increased tolerance against drought or fungal infections or increased salt concentrations or extreme temperature (heat, cold), comprising:

(a) transfecting a plant, a plant tissue or a plant cell with a nucleic acid which encodes a (poly)peptide with an intrinsic affinity to plasmodesmata.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

(b) regenerating a plant from the transfected plant cell.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

(c) producing plants or plant cells from the plant regenerated in (b).

13. The method of any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the (poly)peptide is a virus-encoded transport protein.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the virus-encoded transport protein is the potato leaf roll virus-(PLRV) transport protein p17 or a derivative thereof.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the derivative is a pr17-protein with a hydrophilic N-terminal extension.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the hydrophilic extension is the amino acid MAELGSGSELDHRGGGRSRTS.

17. The method of any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.

18. The method of any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with Phytophthora infestans.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.
20. The method of claim 14, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.
21. The method of claim 15, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.
22. The method of claim 16, wherein the plant, the plant tissue or the plant cells are derived from potato, from tobacco, from cereals or vegetables or are potatoes, tobacco plants, cereal plants or vegetable plants.
23. The method of any one of claims 13, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.
24. The method of any one of claims 14, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.
25. The method of any one of claims 15, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.
26. The method of any one of claims 16, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.
27. The method of any one of claims 17, wherein the increase in tolerance of plants against fungal infections is an increase in tolerance against infections with *Phytophthora infestans*.